

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel Claims 1 and 9-11 and amend Claims 2, 4-8 and 12-15 as follows.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim ~~1~~ 12, wherein said image pickup area includes a common output unit to which signals of a plurality of pixels are read and output sequentially, and wherein said read circuit reads signals through addition of n pixels to the common output unit in the first read-out mode, and reads signals through addition of m pixels or without addition to the common output unit in the second read-out mode.

3. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said read circuit performs addition of n pixels in the common output unit in the first read-out mode.

4. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim ~~1~~ 12, further comprising:

an analog/digital conversion circuit which converts a signal read from said image pickup area into a digital signal,

wherein said image pickup area includes a common

output unit to which signals of a plurality of pixels are read out sequentially and whose output is supplied sequentially to said analog/digital conversion circuit,

wherein said read circuit reads out digital signals converted by said analog/digital conversion circuit through addition of n pixels in the first read-out mode, and

wherein said read circuit reads out digital signals converted by said analog/digital conversion circuit through addition of m pixels or without addition in the second read-out mode.

5. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim ~~1~~ 12, further comprising an image data processing circuit which processes signals read by said read circuit in the first read-out mode and signals read by said read circuit in the second read-out mode by using a same processing unit.

6. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim ~~1~~ 12, wherein the number of signals read by said read circuit in the first read-out mode is approximately equal to the number of signals read by said read circuit in the second read-out mode.

7. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim ~~1~~ 12, wherein said exposure control circuit stores an exposure evaluation value and a focus evaluation value for said image pickup area and uses the exposure evaluation value and the focus evaluation value for an exposure control and a focus control in accordance

with designation of either the first or second read-out modes and/or in accordance with designation of the first and second image pickup areas.

8. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus according to Claim ~~1~~ 12, further comprising:

- a lens for focusing light upon said image pickup area; and
- an image data processing circuit which forms a luminance signal and color signals by processing signals read from said image pickup area.

9. - 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus ~~according to Claim 1~~, comprising:

- an image pickup area having a plurality of pixels;
- a read circuit having a first read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a first image pickup area in said image pickup area, through addition of n (n is a natural number) pixels , and having a second read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a second image pickup area smaller than the first image pickup area, through addition of m ($m < n$, m is a natural number) pixels or without addition; and
- ~~wherein said~~ an exposure control circuit which comprises an amplifier circuit which is arranged to control an amplification factor of the signals read out

from the first and second image pickup areas respectively, in accordance with the first and second read-out modes.

13. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus ~~according to Claim 9, comprising:~~

an image pickup area including pixels arranged in horizontal and vertical directions, vertical output lines to which signals of pixels are read out and a horizontal output line to which signals from the vertical output lines are read out;

a driver circuit for controlling transistors in said image pickup area to effect a first read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a first image pickup area in said image pickup area through addition of n (n is a natural number) pixels to the horizontal output line and a second read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a second image pickup area smaller than the first image pickup area through addition of m ($m < n$, m is a natural number) pixels or without addition to the horizontal output line; and

~~wherein said~~ an exposure control circuit which comprises an amplifier circuit which is arranged to control an amplification factor of the signals read out from the first and second image pickup areas respectively, in accordance with the first and second read-out modes.

14. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus ~~according to Claim 10, comprising:~~

an image pickup area including a plurality of pixels;

an analog/digital converter circuit for converting a signal read out from said image pickup area into a digital signal;

a processing circuit for processing digital signals which are output from said analog/digital converter circuit and correspond to signals read out in a first read-out mode for reading out signals of pixels contained in a first image pickup area in said image pickup area, through addition of n (n is a natural number) pixels, and which correspond to signals read out in a second read-out mode for reading out signals of pixels contained in a second image pickup area smaller than the first image pickup area through addition of m ($m < n$, m is a natural number) pixels or without addition; and

wherein said an exposure control circuit which comprises an amplifier circuit which is arranged to control an amplification factor of the signals read out from the first and second image pickup areas respectively, in accordance with the first and second read-out modes.

15. (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to Claim 11, of~~
controlling an image pickup apparatus, comprising the steps of:

effecting a first read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a first image pickup area in an image pickup area having a plurality of pixels, through addition of n (n is a natural number) pixels; and

effecting a second read-out mode for reading signals of pixels contained in a second image pickup area smaller than the first image pickup area, through addition of m ($m < n$, m is a natural number) pixels or without addition; and

~~wherein said step of effecting the exposure control circuit comprises step of~~
~~amplifying so as to amplify~~ the signals read out from the first and second image pickup
areas respectively, by controlling an amplification factor in accordance with the first and
second read-out modes.